

Claims

1. In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:
5 providing user profiles regarding users and fitness activities of the users;
 and
 examining the user profiles to match at least two selected ones of the
 users for a scheduled fitness activity.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of
 informing a first of the selected users of the scheduled fitness activity.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the informing comprises sending an invitation to
 participate in the scheduled fitness activity to the first selected user.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the invitation includes a user interface
 component for enabling the first selected user to accept or decline the invitation.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the method further comprises sending a
20 communication to the second selected user informing the second selected user whether
 the first selected user accepted or declined the invitation.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein calendars of fitness activities are maintained for
 the selected users and wherein the method further comprises the step of adding the
25 scheduled fitness activity to the calendars of the selected users.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the selected users have client devices with
 displays and wherein the client devices communicate with the electronic device and
 wherein the method further comprises the step of displaying the calendar for at least one
30 of the calendars on the display of at least one of the client devices.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of examining is prompted by one of the
35 selected users requesting the scheduling of the scheduled fitness activity.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing a user interface element for specifying which of the users to invite to the scheduled fitness activity.

5 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the user interface element is part of a web page.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing a user interface component for specifying a date, time and place for the
10 scheduled fitness activity.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the user interface component for specifying a date, time and place is part of a web page.

15 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing a user interface component for identifying what type of fitness activity the scheduled fitness activity is.

15. In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:
20 providing a user interface that enables a user to request a suitable partner for a fitness activity;
conducting a search of candidate partners to locate a suitable partner; and
returning to the user a list of any suitable partners.

25 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify characteristics of a suitable partner.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the search looks for candidate partners having the specified characteristics.

30 18. The method of claim 17, wherein only candidate partners matching at least some of the specified characteristics are set forth on the list.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify
35 suitable ages as one of the characteristics for a suitable partner.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify a suitable geographic locale as one of the characteristics for a suitable partner.
21. The method of claim 16, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify a
5 suitable skill level at the fitness activity for suitable partners.
22. The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
receiving at least one user choice from the list of suitable partners; and
sending an invitation communication to the user choices to participate in
10 the fitness activity.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein the user interface is provided to the user via a network.
- 15 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the network is a computer network.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the computer network is the Internet.
26. In a computer system, a method, comprising the steps of:
20 providing a web site having:
a matching facility for identifying persons that are well-matched
to a first user for a particular type of fitness activity;
a scheduling facility for scheduling fitness activities among
persons;
25 using the matching facility to identify at least one person that is
well-matched to the user for a first type of fitness activity; and
using the scheduling facility to schedule a first event of the first
type of fitness activity between participants, including the first user and the well-
matched person.
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27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:
sending electronic reminders to the participants of the scheduled first
event of the first type of fitness activity.
- 35 28. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a communication indicating that a selected one of the participants can no longer participate in the first event of the first type of fitness activity; and

5 adjusting the scheduling of the first event of the first type of fitness activity with the scheduling facility to indicate that the selected participant will not participate.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:
10 receiving a communication requesting cancellation of the first event of the first type of fitness activity;
in response to the communication, cancelling the first event of the first type of fitness activity with the scheduling mechanism.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
15 sending electronic notification to each of the participants of the first event of the first type of fitness activity that the first event of the first instance of the first type of fitness activity has been cancelled.

31. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:
20 receiving a communication requesting a change in the first event of the first type of fitness activity;
in response to the communication, modifying scheduling of the first event of the first type of fitness activity; and
25 sending electronic notifications to the participants to inform the participants of the modifying of the scheduling of the first event of the first type of fitness activity.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:
30 providing participants with an option of designating whether the participants wish to continue to participate in the first event of the first type of fitness activity in view of the modifying of the scheduling.

33. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:
35 using the scheduling facility to schedule a second event of the first type of fitness activity.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the second event is scheduled for a second user.
35. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:
5 using the scheduling facility to schedule a third event of a second type of fitness activity.
36. In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of:
10 prompting a participant in a fitness activity for feedback regarding a selected participant in the fitness activity;
in response to the prompting, obtaining the feedback regarding the selected participant; and
making information regarding the feedback available to parties that are considering scheduling a fitness activity with the selected participant.
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37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of:
making feedback from other participants of the fitness activity regarding the selected participant available to the parties.
- 20 38. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of:
making additional feedback from other fitness activities regarding the selected participant available to the parties.
39. The method of claim 36, wherein the prompting is performed over a computer
25 network.
40. The method of claim 36, wherein the information regarding the feedback is made available over a computer network.
- 30 41. A storage medium for use in an electronic device, said medium holding instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:
providing user profiles regarding users and fitness activities of the users;
and
examining the user profiles to match at least two selected ones of the
35 users for a scheduled fitness activity.

42. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises the step of informing a first of the selected users of the scheduled fitness activity.

43. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the informing comprises sending an invitation to participate in the scheduled fitness activity to the first selected user.

44. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the invitation includes a user interface component for enabling the first selected user to accept or decline the invitation.

45. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises sending a communication to the second selected user informing the second selected user whether the first selected user accepted or declined the invitation.

46. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein calendars of fitness activities are maintained for the selected users and wherein the method further comprises the step of adding the scheduled fitness activity to the calendars of the selected users.

47. A storage medium for use in an electronic device, said medium holding instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:
providing a user interface that enables a user to request a suitable partner for a fitness activity;
conducting a search of candidate partners to locate a suitable partner; and
returning to the user a list of any suitable partners.

48. The storage medium of claim 47, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify characteristics of a suitable partner.

49. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein the search looks for candidate partners having the specified characteristics.

50. The storage medium of claim 49, wherein only candidate partners matching at least some of the specified characteristics are set forth on the list.

51. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify suitable ages as one of the characteristics for a suitable partner.

52. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein the user interface enables the user to specify a suitable geographic locale as one of the characteristics for a suitable partner.

53. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein the user interface enables the user to
5 specify a suitable skill level at the fitness activity for suitable partners.

54. A storage medium for use in an electronic device, said storage medium holding instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:

10 prompting a participant in a fitness activity for feedback regarding a
 selected participant in the fitness activity;
 in response to the prompting, obtaining the feedback regarding the
 selected participant; and
 making information regarding the feedback available to parties that are
 considering scheduling a fitness activity with the selected participant.